Salem Decr. 26. 1781 –

Sir,

By a letter of your's to Mr John Guinon it appears that you are acquainted with one Charles Le Balliſter of Briſtol. & with his character & conduct, & as you ſeem willing to ſerve the owners &c. of the privateer that took him, coming from Halifax, they wiſh you to be informed of that affair, that you may be the better able to aſſiſt them in getting juſtice done them

I incloſe you ſome depoſitions which will inform you of the ſtate of the caſe – by them you will ſee the buſineſs this man has been engaged in – but notwithſtanding the unlawfulneſs of it

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after his veſsell had been taken from him as a prize, belonging to the enemy, & carrying on an illicit trade, he had the boldneſs to ſeize her at Falmouth, & carry her to Bristol, as we ſuppoſe; Afterwards he libelled her & as we conjecture procured her to be condemned to his use, pretending that he had rose upon her before Capt Thompson took her in our privateer. — He then brought an action of treſpaſs, against Samuel Bowdoin & others to be tried at next Pownalborough court, for taking ~~him~~ & returning him, as a priſoner to the Commiſsary at Boston. —

We have brought an action of treſpaſs against him for taking the veſsell &c at Falmouth, which is to be tried at Ipswich in this

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county, ye first tuesday of April next, the parties are Richard Holten plaintiff & Charles Le Balliſter defendant. -- As his rising on the veſsel we are convinced, is mere pretence, & falſehood, & it is probable you may get evidence of it, as well as that he was himſelf concerned in an unlawfull trade when he was taken by Capt Thompson, & that he is inimical to his country, we wish you to attend to these points for us, & if any perſons, in your part of the ſtate, are knowing to them, that you will take their depoſitions properly before a Justice of the peace & forward one ſett for our use, at Ipſwich, & one ſett to Roland

Cushing Esqr. who is our Counsel, at Pownalboro' to be used there. — Let the captions to the depositions be carefully attended to. — we wish you to inform us whether he has any estate, & whether he has disposed of any lately. — because it must be answerable to us if we recover agt. him. — If he takes any depositions we wish you to attend to them for us & send us copies of them — & write to me by the first Oppy —

I am your Humble
Servant

John Buffinton

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